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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

25X1 SUBJECT False "Popular" Complaints as Basis for Purges

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DATE DISTR. 25 Feb 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The controlled press of the "People's Democracies" more and more tends to rely on a process of "delation", that is denunciation, based on "voluntary correspondents". The letters and protests of these individuals are printed in the newspapers, following an outline laid down in advance by the Communist Party. The system is in particularly full working order in Rumania, where the press is an echo of various criticisms, which are made to seem as if they originated spontaneously among ordinary citizens.
2. The purpose of all this is not, by any means, to bring to light the shortcomings of the administration. Quite the contrary, the idea is to fix personal responsibility for anything that goes wrong, wherever the Government wants it fixed. Yet with this system the government itself never seems to have taken the initiative. It seems to be responding to public demand.
3. The Communist leaders find this an easy way to flatter the masses. The people imagine that the "voluntary correspondents" are real and are doing a useful work in denouncing abuses or bad work by public organizations. This impression, on the part of the public, is further confirmed by the fact that an official thus denounced, has to defend himself. In most cases he is then sacrificed, or "purged", ostensibly for professional incompetence or, better yet, for sabotage.
4. All these criticisms are rigged, or even suggested, to make easy the brutal ejection from office of someone whom the masters of power want to get rid of. The system goes from top to bottom of the Communist ladder. Even cabinet ministers who have fallen out of favor are subjected to a cross-fire from the "voluntary correspondents" in the press.
5. That is how people like the technical ministers, Dumitru Diaconesco, Pascu Stefanescu, and Carol Loncear were eased out of their jobs a few weeks ago.

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They had been put through just such an ordeal of criticism. They got off easily, however, being merely dismissed by a regime which used this hypocritical method to carry on new "purgings" meant to consolidate the personal power of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej.

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